



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **ICE DEPORTS GANG MEMBER-IMMIGRATION VIOLATOR**

*Entered U.S. on visitor visa; remained 12-plus years*

RHODE ISLAND –U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported Julio Walfry Morel-Medina, an admitted street gang member and a citizen of the Dominican Republic who first entered the United States more than 12 years ago on a visitor visa.

Morel, who admitted to ICE officers that he is a member of the Latin Kings street gang, came here on a "B2" non-immigrant visa Jan. 13, 1993 and remained here illegally after the visa expired six months later.

Morel, who was previously arrested for illegal possession of a firearm in November, was most recently arrested and charged with first degree murder by Rhode Island police Dec. 3. ICE placed an administrative law enforcement detainer upon Morel to advise police to hold him until he could be interviewed by ICE officers. ICE ultimately took Morel into custody Dec. 21 as a public safety risk after the state was unable to prosecute him due to a lack of witnesses.

Morel was detained by ICE while his immigration case was adjudicated. On Jan. 13, a federal immigration judge order Morel deported.

"This is a clear cut case where an alien exploited the immigration system, then took up a life of crime and membership in a street gang," said Jim Slovkis, chief of staff for ICE's Office of Detention and Removal. "Ensuring public safety risks like him are expeditiously removed promotes public safety while restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system."

During Fiscal Year 2004, ICE Detention and Removal officers removed 3,020 aliens and status violators to the Dominican Republic. Of that number, 2,486 were criminal aliens. More than 160,000 aliens were deported in FY-2004 and about 85,000 were criminal aliens.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*